

Appl. No. 10/815,582
Amendment Dated July 10, 2006
Reply to Office Action of March 10, 2006

In the Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A composition for boosting and activating peroxides in tooth whiteners, comprising:

a heavy-metal salt solution with a pH greater than 7 and including manganese gluconate; and

~~a chelator~~ tetrasodium EDTA for preventing said heavy-metal salt solution from precipitating; and

polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP).

Claims 2-5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Original). The composition according to claim 1, wherein the pH is from 10.3 to 10.8.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended). The composition according to claim 3 1, wherein said manganese gluconate forms at least three percent of a total weight the composition.

Claim 8 (Original). The composition according to claim 1, further comprising a surfactant.

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Claim 9 (Original). The composition according to claim 1, wherein said heavy-metal salt solution is aqueous.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended). A method for whitening teeth, which comprises:

applying the composition according to claim 1 to teeth; and

applying a whitening agent to the teeth.

Claim 11 (Original). The method according to claim 10, which further comprises drying the teeth before the applying step.

Claim 12 (Original). The method according to claim 11, which further comprises preventing the teeth from being moistened when the composition has been applied to the teeth.

Claim 13 (Original). The method according to claim 10, which further comprises heating the composition.

Claim 14 (Original). The method according to claim 10, which further comprises heating the composition after the applying step with a light.

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Claim 15 (Original). The method according to claim 14, which further comprises:

using a xenon light as the light; and

heating each tooth a maximum of three thirty-second passes with the xenon light.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 10, which further comprises limiting a weight percentage of the ~~hydrogen peroxide~~ peroxides to 7.5 in an at-home formula.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 10, which further comprises including at least a weight percentage of the ~~hydrogen peroxide~~ of peroxide to 35 in an in-office formula.